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Margaret Hobbs photos
A "Jolly Holiday" indeed was experienced by dancers at Paula's Dance Academy Recital. Livia Brewer as Mary Poppins, is joined by Bree Hayes as Bert in the production. Tiny dancers, standing at back from left, are Ava Wilson and Lorelai Riggs. Kneeling are, Hadley Grace Moore, Stella Graham, Chloe Pendergraph and Keira Bonner.

Paula's Dance Academy pays homage to England

BY MARGARET HOBBS
Lifestyles Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

"Mary Poppins" is a 1964 musical-fantasy Walt Disney film with lots of action-packed scenes and fun songs, making it the perfect choice for Paula's Dance Academy Recital.

Combine that with music from British artists called "The British Invasion," and you have a night full of entertainment. The Warren County Middle School auditorium was packed to standing room only for two performances.

Paula Barnes and assistant Camryn Austin, along with a host of studio teachers, trained approximately 150 students for the presentation.

"I chose 'Mary Poppins' because I knew about the remake movie coming out, and knew there would be a lot of renewed interest," said Barnes. "As far as 'The British Invasion' part, it was chosen partly because the two would complement the other, and because of the many wonderful musical choices."

Barnes has been presenting dance recitals for many years, each one special in its own way. She is quick to point out she doesn't do it alone, and appreciates her group

of helpers and volunteers.

A nighttime skyline of London, England, with a silhouette of a flying Mary Poppins sailing across the foreground was chosen for the background by Barnes. She enlisted the artistic talents of Michele Carpenter to do the painting, bringing the backdrop to life.

British flags draped the sides of the stage, and creative lighting was once again provided by lighting director Brian Madaris.

Songs from the Academy Award-winning movie included "Air Mail," "Spoonful of Sugar," "Jolly Holiday," "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," "Chim Chim Cheree," and more.

"The British Invasion" section featured songs, "Harry Potter," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Swagger Jagger," and an assortment of Beatles songs.

"We really did have fun with this recital, with most of my students being enlightened on some artists they had never heard of," said Barnes. "I'm already planning our next year's recitals, choosing songs and choreography. We will start buckling down in January to make it all come together."

For more information about upcoming summer dance clinics, call 931-473-0505.



In "The British Invasion" set, dancers, from left, Presley Bonner, Dani Layne Terry, Keira Reynolds and Lydia Netherton dance to Escala's "Requim For A Tower."



Warren County High School junior Jasmine Dillon presents the musical theatre dance number "Step in Time."

At left, auditioning en pointe for the nanny position to the song "Air Mail," are, from left, Bree Hayes, Katie Sweeton and Abigail Mathis.



Lilyanne Kell stands out in the lyrical presentation of "Writings on the Wall."